

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1. (Amended) A method for the treatment of a patient with hepatic encephalopathy (HE) characterized by hyperammonemia and/or constipation, comprising orally administering to the patient a <u>liquid drink</u> composition comprising polyethylene glycol (PEG) in an amount sufficient to reduce ammonia plasma levels and/or alleviate constipation in the patient.
- 2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the composition consists essentially of PEG.
- 3. (Amended) The method of claim $\frac{2}{2}$, wherein the composition is administered in single dosages each containing comprising from about 5 to 35 gm of dry PEG dissolved in water aqueous liquid.
- 4. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the composition further <u>includes</u> <u>comprises</u> lactulose.
- 5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the composition comprises from about 0.15 to 3.5 parts by weight PEG to 1 part lactulose.
- 6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the composition comprises from about 0.5 to 3 parts by weight PEG to 1 part by weight lactulose.
- 7. (Amended) The method of claim $4\ \underline{1}$, wherein the composition is administered in single dosages each containing comprising from about 5 to 35 gm of dry PEG dissolved in water aqueous liquid.
- 8. (Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein each dosage further contains comprises from about 10 to 30 gm of dry lactulose dissolved in water agueous liquid.

- 9. (Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein each dosage contains comprises from 10 to 20 gm PEG and 10 to 20 gm lactulose.
- 10. (Amended) A composition for the treatment of HE comprising from about 0.15 to 3.5 parts by weight PEG to 1 part and lactulose.
- 11. (Amended) The composition of claim 10 comprising from about $\frac{0.5 \text{ to } 3}{0.15 \text{ to } 3.5}$ parts by weight PEG to 1 part by weight lactulose.
- 12. (Original) A single dosage composition for the treatment of HE comprising from about 5 to 35 gm of PEG.
- 13. (Original) The single dosage composition of claim 12, further comprising from about 10 to 30 gm of lactulose.
- 14. (Original) The single dosage composition of claim 13, comprising from about 10 to 20 gm PEG and 10 to 20 gm lactulose.
- 15. (Amended) A method or composition according to claim 1, wherein the PEG is solid at room temperature.
- 16. (Amended) A method or composition according to claim 4, wherein the PEG is solid at room temperature.
- 17. (Amended) A method or composition according to claim 10, wherein the PEG is solid at room temperature.
- 18. (Amended) A method or composition according to claim 12, wherein the PEG is solid at room temperature.

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- 19. (Amended) A $\frac{10}{10}$ method or composition according to claim $\frac{4}{10}$, wherein the lactulose and PEG are each a dry powder.
- 20. (Amended) A $\frac{1}{10}$ method or composition according to claim $\frac{1}{10}$, wherein the lactulose and PEG are each a dry powder.
- 21. (Amended) A $\frac{14}{12}$ method or composition according to claim $\frac{13}{14}$, wherein the lactulose and PEG are each a dry powder.
- 22. (Amended) A method or composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition is free of added electrolytes.
- 23. (Amended) A method or composition according to claim 4, wherein the composition is free of added electrolytes.
- 24. (Amended) A method or composition according to claim 10, wherein the composition is free of added electrolytes.
- 25. (Amended) A method or composition according to claim 12, wherein the composition is free of added electrolytes.
- 26. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein the composition is administered on a continuing basis in at least one single dosage per day.
- 27. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the composition is administered on a continuing basis in at least one single dosage per day.
- 28. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the composition is administered in an amount and frequency sufficient to reduce plasma ammonia to clinically-acceptable levels and to maintain these levels.

- 29. (New) The method of claims 27, wherein the composition is administered in an amount and frequency sufficient to reduce plasma ammonia to clinically-acceptable levels and to maintain these levels.
- 30. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the amount of the composition administered is sufficient to alleviate constipation in the patient.
- 31. (New) The method of claim 4, wherein the amount of the composition administered is sufficient to alleviate constipation in the patient.
- 32. (New) A method for the treatment of a patient with HE characterized by ammonemia and constipation, comprising orally administering to the patient a liquid drink composition comprising PEG or PEG and lactulose in an amount and frequency sufficient to alleviate constipation.